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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I've been in the Internet industry since 90th. Being a high school student, I first got access to the internet via modem in 1995. From 1998 to 2003, I was a university student. In the dormitory, we built a LAN and connected it to the Internet. We did everything ourselves from cables and crimping all the way to configuring UNIX kernel on routers. I was deeply involved into that, so no surprise that after graduating in 2003 I started to work in an ISP. That was a small ISP, and back in that time there were hundreds of them around the city. I changed several jobs, worked in few ISPs, in a search engine and in a company developing a web server. In these ten years (2004 to 2014) there were a lot of competition, stories of success and bankruptcy, merges and acquisitions. ISPs gradually lowered prices and provided more bandwidth to customers. That was a thriving free market by its definition. The end result is that in my home apartment which was a non-luxury one in a regular sleeping block I got choice of 3 (three) different fiber optic Internet providers with pricing starting from \$10/month for 100Mbit/s symmetrical. Or \$25/month for 500 Mbit/s! Dear FCC reader, if you indeed read all the way to this point, you probably would say: "what the bullshit is this guy telling me???" Now I will reveal one important thing. That story happened in Moscow, Russia. And that's a true story.

In 2015 I moved to the Silicon Valley, the heart of the Internet, to work at one of the large tech companies that make the Valley. I am amazed by what people do in the Valley and I'm indeed happy to work here. But the state of the home Internet in the USA, and particularly in the Silicon Valley itself was a shocking surprise to me. I still can't believe that in the place where the Internet was born, the quality of consumer Internet is so poor and for incredible pricing. Most homes have a choice of one ISP, who charges a fortune, has poor support and offers DSL or asymmetric cable connection at best. I've never met a person who is happy with their home ISP.

But if you look at rural areas, situation gets much worse. I live in the Santa Cruz county and in my community of a dozen of homes there is no cable provider at all. Each homeowner solves their problem their own way. Some are stuck with a cellular phone, some run p2p radio to a friend, some "enjoy" satellite dish Internet. I've tried to connect to Comcast, which requires putting just 600 meters of cable and Comcast put a price tag of \$42000 dollars on that cable. Forty two thousands. And, hey, we are talking about coaxial cable, not fiber. It is a 20 year old technology.

All that needs to be done is allow a fair competition. It isn't yet at all. But the latest propositions are about to kill the last chance for it.

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